Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OUAGAD 01358 131824Z ACTION H-03

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R 131534Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3687 INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN AMEMBASSY KINSHASA AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL OUAGADOUGOU 1358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, UV

SUBJ: SUPPORT FOR MEDIATION OF ZAIRE-ANGOLA DISPUTE

REF: STATE 066446

1. WHEN I CALLED WITH CHAIRMAN DIGGS ON FOREIGN MINISTER KARGOUGOU APRIL 7, CHAIRMAN DIGGS ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT OF SITUATION IN ZAIRE. KARGOUGOU REPLIED THAT POSITION HE WAS ABOUT TO OUTLINE TO US HAD NOT YET RECEIVED FORMAL APPROVAL BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BUT THAT PROCESS OF CLEARANCE WAS FAR ENOUGH ALONG SO THAT HE FELT HE COULD TELL US ABOUT IT. UPPER VOLTA, HE SAID, CONSIDERED THAT THE ARMED ATTACK ON THE SHABA PROVINCE OF ZAIRE WAS AN INVASION AIDED AND ABETTED BY ANGOLA AND, THEREFORE, BY CUBA AND THE SOVIET UNION. IF SUCH INVASION WAS ALLOWED TO SUCCEED, NO AFRICAN NATIONA WOULD FEEL SAFE WITHIN ITS BORDERS. THE AFRICAN CONTINENT IS PRESENTLY THE OBJECT OF A GENERAL OFFENSIVE BY THE SOVIET UNION. EVEN IN WEST AFRICA NO ONE FEELS SAFE ANYMORE AND THE SOVIETS ARE GAINING GROUND IN GUINA, GUINEA-BISSAU, BENIN AND MALI. KARGOUGOU CONCLUED THAT THE U.S. CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS AND MUST HELP THOSE MODERATE AFRICAN STATES CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 OUAGAD 01358 131824Z

WHICH ARE OPPOSED TO COMMUNISM.

2. CHAIRMAN DIGGS COUNTERED THAT U.S. WAS IN PROCESS OF INCREASING ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN STATES PARTICULARY IN THE SAHEL AND THAT WE FELT BEST WAY TO COUNTER THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM IN AFRICA WAS TO HELP AFRICAN STATES TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF

THEIR PEOPLE.

3. WHEN WE CALLED ON PRESIDENT LAMIZANA LATER SAME DAY, WE HEARD PRETTY MUCH THE SAME STORY ON THE THREAT OF THE SOVIET OFFENSIVE IN AFRICA AND THE INDIFFERENCE DISPLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES.

GRAHAM

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